

High Level Taskforce on Mental Health and Addiction Challenges of persons interacting with the Criminal Justice System

Subgroup 3: Community issues including through Care from Detention

Friday 7th January 2022 10am- 11am via video conference

Attendees:

- Chair; Mark Wilson; Director, Probation Service
- Judge Brendan Toale
- Chief Superintendent Gerry Roche; An Garda Síochána
- Jim Ryan; Head of Operations for Mental Health Services, HSE
- Mary O'Regan; Principal Officer, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy
- Dr Conor O'Neill; National Forensic Mental Health Service, HSE
- Tom O'Brien; Head of Service Primary Care, Community Healthcare Organisation, HSE
- Ruairi Ferrie; Dept. of Housing, Homelessness Policy, Funding and Delivery Section
- Kim McDonnell; Probation Officer, Probation Service
- Michael Murchan; Assistant Principal Officer, Mental Health Unit, Dept. of Health,
- Dr Damien Smith; Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, In-reach team, Mountjoy, CMH
- **Secretariat** –Oonagh Ffrench and Kerrie Keegan, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy

Apologies:

- Tony O'Donovan; Principal Officer, DCEDIY, Child Welfare Advisor, Child Detention Unit
- Deirdre O'Flaherty; Administrative Officer, Mental Health Unit, Dept. of Health
- Joseph Doyle; Social Inclusion, HSE
- Seamus Hempenstall; Principal Officer, Mental Health Unit, Dept. of Health
- Enda Kelly; National Nurse Manager, Irish Prison Service
- John Dunphy, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy

Agenda:

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Focus on Community Care
4. AOB

1. Welcome from Chair

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance. He introduced a new member of the group Ruairi Ferrie, Dept. of Housing to members of the group
- 1.2. It was noted by the Chair how important it is to engage in housing services due to the complex housing needs of service users who come into contact with the criminal justice system

2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1. Minutes of meeting of 03.12.21 were approved

3. Update from Secretariat on overall project

3.1. An update was provided by Secretariat on the current situation regarding the HLTF. The HLTF Chair is meeting with the 3 Subgroup Chairs next week and will probably look for work plans for each Subgroup for the Final Report

3.2. The Chair indicated that he is interested in the views of the members of the Subgroup on how the work is reviewed and finalised over the next 2 months

3.3. He pointed out that it is important that the Final Report reads as a total project and not 3 separate Subgroup reports

3.4. It was stated that it would be important that the Final Report sets out the improved range of services under Mental Health, Primary Care and Social Inclusion but to also state that there is scope for improvement. This applies equally to developments on the Justice side.

3.5. It is envisaged that the Ministers for Justice will meet with the Ministers for Health in the coming weeks. It is considered to be an important area being reviewed as it is listed in the current Programme for Government

3.6. It was discussed that there will need to a series of bilateral meetings to further the recommendations of this Subgroup.

4. Consideration of Subgroup 3 Work Plan 2022

4.1. The document on Courts is being prepared by a group of members from this Subgroup and will be presented at the next meeting

4.2. The two IDG reports have helped shape the work of the Group and the Group must decide on specific recommendations and solutions and draft a set of guiding principles

4.3. It is important to consider strengthening links into prisons such as access to Primary Care and Social Inclusion to ensure continuity of care

4.4. The Chair stated that Friday, 18th February 2022 may be the Subgroup's last meeting. The recommendations that are put forward in the Final Report need to be focused, measurable and impactful

5. AOB

5.1. Michael Murchan stated that if anyone wishes to contact him outside of the Subgroup meetings they are welcome to do so to discuss any matters of the work involved

5.2. The Chair requested feedback from Dept. of Health on the 1st two documents circulated on Throughcare and Community